

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: D. B. Modesitt, et al.

Express Mail Label No.: EV321157934US

SERIAL No.: Not yet assigned

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee Service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 addressed to:

FILED: December 5, 2003

FOR: ARTICULATING SUTURING  
DEVICE AND METHOD

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 6771.US.C1

Group Art No.: Not yet assigned

Date of Deposit: December 5, 2003

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Matthew H. Mader

Date

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and request their entry into the record.